

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph on page 62, line 21, to page 63, line 5, as follows:

The metal electrode plates 130a and 130b are connected to a high voltage power supply not shown such that high voltages are applied thereto. A potential difference is provided between the two metal electrode plates 130a and 130b, and a higher voltage than that applied to the metal electrode plate 130a nearer to the water recovering water tank 190 is applied to the metal electrode plate 130b farther from the water recovering water tank 190. Meanwhile, a grounding electrode 108 ~~18~~ is connected to the water recovering water tank 190 so as to energize regenerated water 109 in the water recovering water tank 190.

Please amend the paragraph on page 65, line 21, to page 66, line 12, as follows:

The filter tank 201 is provided immediately below the water recovering water tank 190. An on-off valve 192 is provided between an end of the bottom of the water recovering water tank 190 and the filter tank 201. The on-off valve 192 is used to open or close the water tank 190, and is driven to open or close by an opening-closing driving motor 194 and is normally closed. A filter 200 is disposed horizontally or substantially horizontally in the filter tank 201. In the waste liquid regeneration apparatus 140, if the film thickness of the ink pigment 188 exceeds a predetermined allowable value, then the operation of the apparatus 140 ~~40~~ is stopped and the on-off valve 192 is opened so that the ink pigment 188 is dropped into the filter tank 201 together with the water 109 and the waste liquid 111 in the vessel 145. The water 109 and the waste liquid 111 pass through the filter 200 and are recovered at a lower portion in the filter tank 201 while the ink pigment 188 is caught by the filter 200 and recovered.

Please amend the paragraph on page 72, line 20, to page 73, line 4, as follows:

The present embodiment is characterized in the water recovering water tank ~~90~~ 190, and the other part thereof is configured similar to that of the eleventh embodiment. In particular, what is most significant with the present invention is that a configuration which allows the separated ink pigment 188 to be disposed of to the outside is provided.

To this end, it is necessary to allow the ink pigment 188 separated on the surface of the water 109 in the water tank 190 to drop smoothly and thoroughly without adhering to the inner face of the water tank 190. Therefore, in the present embodiment, the water recovering water tank 190 is configured in the following manner.

Please amend the paragraph on page 74, line 20, to page 75, line 2, as follows:

Since the two metal electrode plates 130a and 130b function as double filters in this manner, with the waste liquid regeneration apparatus of the thirteenth ~~111th~~ embodiment, a flow of the ink pigment 188 into the regeneration tank 175 partitioned by the metal electrode plate 130a is controlled, and further, a flow of the ink pigment 188 into an upper portion of the regeneration tank 175 partitioned by the metal electrode plate 130b is controlled. Consequently, cleaning liquid 164 having a high purity can be recovered into the regenerated liquid tank 170.

Please amend the paragraph on page 76, line 27, to page 77, line 11, as follows:

First, the waste liquid supplying apparatus 340 which is a characteristic element of the waste liquid regeneration apparatus according to the present embodiment is described. The waste liquid supplying apparatus 340 is an apparatus for supplying waste liquid 111 to the waste liquid regeneration apparatus 240 ~~340~~ and includes a waste liquid recovering tank 230 for storing waste liquid 111 recovered from the printer, a pump 232 for pressure feeding the waste liquid 111 from the waste liquid recovering tank 230 to the waste liquid loading pipe 142 of the waste liquid regeneration apparatus 240, and a control apparatus 234 for controlling operation of the pump 232.

Please amend the paragraph on page 83, line 27, to page 84, line 12, as follows:

The waste liquid regeneration apparatus 240' according to the present embodiment includes a waste liquid recovering tank 230, a pump 232, a control apparatus 234' and two sensors 236 and 237. The control apparatus 234' can change over the waste liquid supplying method for the pump 232 between the continuous supplying method and

the intermittent supplying method similarly to the control apparatus 234 according to the thirteenth 1st embodiment. However, the control apparatus 234' can further perform the changeover automatically. Furthermore, the control apparatus 234' can automatically perform setting of the stopping time T2 (refer to FIG. 27) of waste liquid supply in the intermittent supplying method.

Please amend the paragraph on page 84, line 13, to page 85, line 21, as follows:

First, the automatic changeover of the waste liquid supplying method is described. A signal from the sensor 237 provided at an exit of the waste liquid recovering tank 230 is inputted to the control apparatus 234'. The sensor 237 includes a light emitting/receiving element 237a and a reflecting plate 237b and detects a light passing state through the waste liquid 111 discharged from the waste liquid recovering tank 230. Where the waste liquid 111 contains the water 109 as a major component, the element 237a can detect reflected light from the reflecting plate 237b, but where the waste liquid 111 contains the cleaning liquid 162 in which the ink pigment 188 is mixed as a major component, since the waste liquid 111 is almost black, the element 237a cannot detect reflected light. Accordingly, when the element 237a detects reflected light and an on signal is outputted from the element 237a, it can be discriminated that the waste liquid 111 which contains the water 109 as a major component is supplied, but when the element 237a does not detect reflected light and an off signal is outputted from the element 237a, it can be discriminated that the waste liquid 111 which contains the cleaning liquid 162 having the ink pigment 188 mixed therein as a major component is supplied. Thus, the control apparatus 234' changes over the waste liquid supplying method in response to on/off of the signal from the sensor 237 such that, when the signal from the sensor 237 is an off signal, the control apparatus 234' controls the pump 232 to operate in accordance with the intermittent supplying method, but when the signal from the sensor 237 is an on signal, the control apparatus 234' controls the pump 232 to operate in accordance with the continuous supplying method. Where automatic changeover is performed in this manner, the waste liquid supplying method can be

changed over precisely, and the processing capacity as a whole can be further raised to further reduce the regeneration processing time.